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It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch - - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

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Reports

- [Item#1](#)
CHINA'S CHOKEHOLD ON RARE-EARTH MINERALS RAISE CONCERNS. YaleGlobal. Michael Richardson. October 8, 2010.

Following a boating mishap in the East China Sea, China swiftly banned exports to Japan of rare-earth materials, essential in high-tech manufacturing. China holds the largest reserves of the minerals required to manufacture cell phones, smart bombs, wind turbines and other high-tech products. In recent months, industries reliant on rare earths have encountered increasing delays, quotas and price hikes amid heightened demand. China's official explanation for the slowdown mirrors reasons behind the end to US rare-earth mining – environmental degradation. In 1990, the US was the industry's dominant force, but because of costs, ceded control to China. In the light of China's increasing assertiveness in the global scene, its dominance in rare-earth reserves and processing has raised concerns about the future availability of materials needed for a range of critical industries – alternative energy, communications, transportation and defense.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/chinas-rare-earth-minerals> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#2

CUTTING TO THE BONE: HOW THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AFFECTS SCHOOLS. Center for Public Education. October 7, 2010.

The report notes that public K-12 education usually is one of the last areas to face the budget axe, but most districts today are suffering from declines in both state and local funding. At the same time, many also face dramatic cost increases in areas ranging from utilities to pension funds, forcing school leaders to make tough decisions between balanced budgets and student needs.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.centerforpubliceducation.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=lvIXliN0JwE&b=6302113&ct=8736229¬oc=1> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#3

AN ECONOMIC STRATEGY TO RENEW AMERICAN COMMUNITIES. The Hamilton Project, Brookings Institution. Michael Greenstone and Adam Looney. October 13, 2010.

When hit by recessions or other economic shocks, some communities have persistently low rates of economic growth that cause them to fall behind the rest of the country. Communities that were disproportionately hit by the 1980–82 recessions still have not recovered and to this day have lower incomes, lower employment rates, and lower income growth than other areas. In addition to these negative economic effects, concentrated poverty may increase social problems like crime. To address this situation, the authors propose a three-pronged approach: attract businesses to distressed areas, invest in displaced workers, and match workers to jobs.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2010/10_renew_communities_greenstone_looney/10_renew_communities_greenstone_looney.pdf [PDF format, 25 pages].

Item#4

FOREIGN POLICY AND THE 2010 MIDTERMS: ENERGY AND CLIMATE POLICY. Council on Foreign Relations. Toni Johnson. October 8, 2010.

A possible transfer of political power in the congressional midterm elections could doom short-term chances for a comprehensive climate bill. But experts say climate issues could still be addressed through bills focused on clean energy.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.cfr.org/publication/23112/foreign_policy_and_the_2010_midterms.html [HTML format, various paging].

Item#5

HARD WORK IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR. Center for Economic and Policy Research. Hye Jin Rho. October 2010.

Recent economic turmoil has led state and local governments to seek new paths to offset budget shortfalls. Among other things, one widely discussed policy option is state employee pension reforms. These proposals seek to cut pension benefits, and, moreover, to increase the retirement age. State and local government employees generally are able to access full retirement benefits at a lower age than most other American workers, for whom the current age for eligibility for full Social Security benefits is 66 (and which will rise to 67 by 2027). Policymakers, however, must not overlook the fact that a large share of public sector workers are in physically strenuous jobs, says the author.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/older-workers-public-2010-10.pdf> [PDF format, 2 pages].

Item#6

LAGGING YOUTH ENTHUSIASM COULD HURT DEMOCRATS IN 2010. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. October 7, 2010.

Millennials continue to be among the strongest backers of Democratic candidates this fall, though their support for the Democratic Party has slipped since 2008. But young voters have given far less thought to the upcoming elections than have older voters, and this gap is larger than in previous midterms.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1759/young-voters-obama-democrats-2010-midterm-elections-lagging-enthusiasm> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#7

ONCE A WINNER, CHINA SEES GLOBALIZATION'S DOWNSIDE – PART I. YaleGlobal. David Dapice. October 11, 2010.

Globalization is a two-way street. Countries cannot endlessly send products out into the world and build up reserves without a push back, benefiting from the world without giving back something, the series. China's thriving economy depends on exports. By holding down the value of its currency, Beijing attracted foreign investors, reduced prices for global consumers and encouraged excess capacity, explains economist David Dapice. China angered its trade partners: Other nations, distraught about unemployment and eroding export markets, can no longer tolerate China's rising trade surplus and urge the export giant to lift currency controls. China had hoped for gradual currency revaluation, but other nations already counter China, adopting its strategy by devaluing their currencies.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/china-sees-globalizations-downside-part-i> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#8

ONCE A WINNER, CHINA SEES GLOBALIZATION'S DOWNSIDE – PART II. YaleGlobal. Jeffrey Wasserstrom. October 13, 2010.

A poster child of successful globalization, China has recently taken some knocks from the process. The series explores how China's global connections brought prosperity but some unpleasant surprises as well. By leveraging its economic might and organizing power of the state, China has successfully used institutions like the International Olympics Committee to rebrand itself as an advanced global power. China has stumbled in its attempt due to an enduring authoritarian impulse. The most recent example of failure came when a Chinese prisoner-of-conscience, Liu Xiaobo, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Liu was repeatedly jailed for his call for expanding civil liberties. Similar fracas broke out earlier when Beijing denounced the participation of dissident writers in the Frankfurt Book Fair. Harsh attempts to suppress demands for democracy and human rights may ensure the party's hold on power, but tarnish China's image globally.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/china-sees-globalizations-downside-part-ii> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#9

THE ROLE OF FAITH IN THE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT. Center for American Progress. Marta Cook and John Halpin. October 8, 2010.

There have historically been two primary strands of progressive thought concerning the proper relationship between faith and politics, one secular and the other emerging directly from religious social values. Secular progressive thought, associated with Enlightenment liberalism, is skeptical about particular religious claims in a pluralistic society, and insistent upon keeping religion out of politics and politics out of religion. Prominent American liberals such as Thomas Jefferson and James Madison,

among others, strongly advocated freedom of conscience, religious tolerance, and strict separation of church and state as represented in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. This classical liberalism placed a premium on rationality, self-determination, and personal morality above faith, church authority, and public morality. It looked to establish a constitutional order in America that would prevent the merging of religion and government that was prevalent in Europe.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/10/pdf/progressive_traditions6.pdf [PDF format, 18 pages].

Item#10

SMART MOBILITY FOR A 21st CENTURY AMERICA. Transportation for America. October 2010.

The report from four leading transportation organizations demonstrates how existing and emerging technologies can squeeze more capacity from over-burdened highways, help commuters avoid traffic delays and expand and improve transportation options, all while saving money and creating jobs.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.itsa.org/itsa/files/pdf/ITS-White-Paper-100710-FINAL.pdf> [PDF format, 39 pages].